



AMS Assembly Minutes

October 8, 2020

Minutes are tentative until approved at Assembly.

The meeting was convened at 18:06 EST

Motion #1 – Moved by Caroline Hart, Seconded by Jared den Otter

Motion for AMS Assembly to approve the agenda of the meeting of October 8th, 2020

AMS President den Otter: Can I motion to amend the agenda to add the elections for the speaker of AMS assembly, before the guest speaker?

Commissioner Hart: Anyone second? Alright we can motion to amend the agenda to include the election of the speaker of the AMS. All those in favour of the amendment? All those opposed? Perfect.

Motion passes.

Motion #2 - Moved by Caroline Hart, Seconded by Jared den Otter

Motion for AMS Assembly to approve the minutes for the meeting of September 24th, 2020

Commissioner Hart: All those in favour? All opposed?

Motion passes.

Election of the Speaker

AMS President den Otter: We actually have the person interested in the position here actually, Laura. Basically we can ask her up to three questions about the position, remove her to vote. Basically, we weren't able to elect a speaker in March due to COVID so we're doing that now. I can start if no one else has any questions. I'll just ask a simple, why do you think the role of speaker in the AMS Assembly is an important one and why would you like to do it, Laura?

Laura Devenney: I think that being the speaker is one of the highest honours you can get here at Queen's. It's an integral role that facilitates discussion and debate between some of the brightest

minds and leaders here at Queen's. I would love to hold this position to help facilitate these discussions and get to know everyone a little bit better. Thank you for your questions, Jared.

Commissioner Hart: Any other questions for Laura? Okay, so, I'll take that as a no and I'll move Laura into the waiting room so we can vote. I believe Laura is now in the waiting room so we will do the vote how we did last week when we ratified people. All in favour? All those opposed? And anyone who abstains? Okay perfect, I'll let Laura in and we can give her the good news.

Laura is elected Speaker.

Speaker's Business

Speaker DeVenney: *Land recognition statement was read.* Next on my list is just, thank you so much everyone for allowing me to have this position. I look forward to getting to know everyone a little better, and I don't know if this breaks tradition but I have the speaker scarf and I have the gavel hear. I'll bang it in spirit here. If there are no questions right now for me, I will move on to our guest speaker.

Guest Speaker

Guest Speaker Mackenzy Metcalfe: I'm going to let Matt share the presentation for me so I can look at my speaking notes. Thank you everyone for having me here today, I'm here to talk about UCRU or Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities. I'm the VP of the university student council at Western University where I do external advocacy, I'm also the chair of UCRU. Today I'm here to talk to you about federal advocacy group which Queen's participates, UCRU. We have essentially an informal coalition of student associations around Canada and our mandate is to advocate to the federal government for affordable, inclusive, high quality undergraduate education, as well as increased access to undergraduate research. We have grown to nine student unions across Canada with the AMS being a founding member of UCRU.

In these 250000 students we represent, this is kind of what we're composed of, we have nine smaller components such as student unions. We were created out of student unions who were dissatisfied with federal advocacy lobbies. UCRU currently has five leadership roles as it stands right now. I'm going to outline the different schools that we do have. We have nine of the U15 universities. I'm going to profile a couple of our guiding principles. We want to be aspirational to develop policy that is pragmatic, no point in advocating if we could not actually do change. We strive to be evidence-based policy and asks. We also tried to be collaborative to ensure that all of our members are heard, we meet once every two weeks. We strive to advocate only on policies that affect undergraduate students at different campus. There are a lot of federal organizations that cover graduate and college students, so we really want to be specific to the students we represent. We also hope to strive to be equitable and include indigenization, where we try to advocate for the equitable treatment of all undergrads. Every year we have a lobby

week in November where we met with over seventy members of Parliament and their policy staffs where we talk about our different advocacy goals. We do in person meetings with politicians in usual years, find out what's going on at the federal level and promote the interests of students. We do research briefs, as I said we try to be evidence-based. We maintain relationships with political staffers who give us insight into what politicians are thinking. We also send ad hoc letters to ministers.

What a year at UCRU looks like: In June we have the new board, composed of one member of each of your student unions. In July we set our yearly priorities, talk with each school. From that we create our federal budget submission, submitted to the student government asking them to include specific student priorities in their budget in February. We have our lobby week in Ottawa in November. In March they present the new budget and in May we have our new members.

Specifically this year, UCRU is focusing on financial aid. We have done a lot of work expanding more integrated learning opportunities for international students, expanding options for humanities students. We worked a lot to create the CESB which a lot of students benefited from over the summer. We were really proud about that advocacy.

We are actively trying to expand to other U15 universities. We are looking at formalizing and having official bylaws. We've really upped our online presence and graphics game.

Thank you for letting me speak today. We are happy to collaborate and elevate the needs of Queen's students at the federal level. I'll be more than happy to answer any questions about anything about my presentation or UCRU.

Speaker DeVenney: If you have any for Mackenzy, feel free to. It doesn't look like anybody has any questions, so on behalf of everyone thank you Mackenzy so much. I'm sure after this I'll be going to Instagram to check out the account.

President's Report

AMS President den Otter: Thank you, Laura. I don't have any other updates outside of my written report but did want the chance to say some things that were said in there. I don't know if anyone has seen the tent but they have pitched a tent for students near Tindall field that can hold I think sixteen individuals. If you see anyone looking for study space you can direct them there or to the library spaces. If you hear of students looking for alternative study spaces, reach out to me, we want to see if the tent is working for students and that they know about it. We are also currently starting our homecoming campaign, we posted about it today. There's more information there. I hope everyone is having a happy October so far, it's my favourite time of year with the weather. That's everything. Happy to take any questions.

Speaker DeVenney: If anyone has any questions for President den Otter, now is the time.

Vice President's Reports

AMS VP-OPS Samoyloff: No further updates from my report, just wanted to further shoutout the services. Just started getting our soups out there, feel free to stop by. Just a quick final note that the AMS is still hiring quite a few positions feel free to check them out, quite a diverse range of positions are currently up. Happy to take any questions as well.

Speaker DeVenney: I don't think there are any questions right now, we will move on to VP Henriques.

AMS VP-UA Henriques: Nothing too much to add to my written report, just a few updates for you all. We did submit a policy brief on the sexual violence policy on Queen's students. We've discussed some of our recommendations at length. I'm more than happy to share that with any folks that are interested. We are looking to do further advocacy in the coming months. We also submitted an academic experience brief, and will be continuing to do advocacy on how faculty department heads and various administrators can work to improve the student experience for various students. We have finally launched our stay homecoming Homecoming campaign. There will be some more posts on how students can show school spirit in a safe and fun way. As for me, there are always lots of grants and opportunities to receive funding for the various commissions such as the sustainability action fund that will be released I believe today so you will see that on our social media in the coming days. That's all for me, if anyone has any questions I am happy to take them.

Speaker DeVenney: Thank you so much to the executive for your reports today.

Board of Director's Report

Chairperson Nensi: Nothing to add to my report but happy to take any questions.

Undergraduate Student Trustee's Report

Trustee Bennett-Dwara: Hi everyone, I didn't include a written report this time around just because I am waiting to see if I am breaching any confidentiality rules on my quarterly report. But, if you are interested, I will be releasing the report publicly on my social media soon as I hear back, check that out when it is released. I am open to any questions, thank you.

Student Senator's Report

Chairperson Flowers: Thank you. So for my written report, I covered what was spoken about just over a week ago at senate. Not too much to add as all the contents of the meeting were added there. I will note there was not too much substantive material at the meeting, primarily a lot of committees sharing their annual reports. Thank you.

Rector's Report

Rector Hiemstra: Thank you, Laura. So I don't have a lot to add on top of the report that was submitted. The only thing, we can be expecting the principal's conversation report to be coming out very shortly as we begin to move forward creating a strategic framework for the university going forward for the next few years. I'm more than happy to talk about it. Happy to take any questions that people have.

Speaker DeVenney: President den Otter.

AMS President den Otter: Point of information. What Sam's talking about mainly encompasses the conversations Deane has been having since he began. To start creating that framework of what we want to see on campus in the long term. I just wanted to put that in there.

Rector Hiemstra: Thank you.

Statements by Students

Speaker DeVenney: If anyone has anything to say right now, please go ahead. Seeing as there are none, we will move on.

Question Period

Speaker DeVenney: I don't think there are any questions right now, so we shall move on.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Motion #3 - Moved by Olivia Stanton, Seconded by Jared den Otter

Motion for AMS Assembly to approve the changes to Clubs policy

Commissioner Stanton: This year, I'll just do a quick little intro – the changes that I've made to clubs policy are mostly from director of clubs Shrempf last year to update changes reflected on our commission as it has changed from being an office to a commission, so changing vocabulary and a section on club awards which are now being added officially within policy.

Speaker DeVenney: So if there are any questions for Commissioner Stanton right now, please step forward. Seeing no questions, we will move on to a vote now. All those in favour, please put your hands up? All opposed. Any abstentions?

Motion passes.

Discussion Period

Speaker DeVenney: We are moving into discussion period on the compensation policy, so if anyone has something they would like to add on that topic please come forward.

Commissioner Galvani: We were going to bring this again to assembly to make sure everyone is happy with it and how the matrix looks. So how it's going to work is hopefully it will be passed today at assembly then we will bring it to the board of directors to be reviewed and hopefully approved there. Happy to take any questions or feedback on that.

Speaker DeVenney: Derek.

ASUS Representative Noronha: I do have a question about the financial impact of the motion. So you plan on using funds the AMS already has, depending on the popularity of the consultations, I'm just wondering if you're concerned if you have enough money to cover all of the consultations?

Commissioner Galvani: Thank you for your question. At the moment we are not too worried about the financial aspect of it. Also, as I have noted in the policy the budget will change from the line it is in now so it will be more accurate next year, but for this year we don't foresee any plans of exceeding the budget in that sense. Thank you.

Speaker DeVenney: Any more questions for Commissioner Galvani.

Commissioner Mellon: I just wanted to add to Commissioner Galvani's comment. I just wanted to touch on the fact that this year especially my budget is quite flexible, that's kind of where this idea came out of. I do have projects that aren't necessarily needing as many funds as they were needing at one point, so for that reason we are not as concerned super concerned about making room for this. It won't be requesting new funds, just reworking our budget as allocated.

Speaker DeVenney: EngSoc President Lee.

EngSoc President Lee: I did have a question about the emotional labour part, there being an appendix that defines emotional labour, though even that is somewhat subjective. Who would be qualifying that niche and to what extent of what monetary value that should be attributed to.

Commissioner Sahi: That's a great question. That is something we thought a lot about just because there is a lot to consider when talking about emotional labour, a lot of it isn't on paper. There is no perfect definition, we admit that for sure there is a lot of subjectivity, but that's what the policy is made for is to do our best to remove as much subjectivity and bias as possible but with that being said, emotional labour is a personal experience and so we can't always know when someone is experiencing that. But we do know that when students are discussing issues where there is emotional labour being extended, we are trying to do is to put value to that. I can say that we're looking at when students are having to share really vulnerable. I would say that a good rule of thumb involves a student speaking on personal experiences outside, not just on a topic itself. An external perspective taking the time to share something that is harmful, that's what I would say. I'm not sure if that answered your question but I'm happy to take follow ups.

EngSoc President Lee: Then is the cost of emotional labour already kind of in this matrix or is that something that will be added to the motion?

Commissioner Galvani: Thanks for your question. Already in the matrix at the bottom we put in footnotes the different value ranges and how those value ranges are affected by emotional

labour within the consultation. And then just another thing I would add to Commissioner Sahi's response is how these consultations and compensation will be chosen where we will both on the same page about what emotional labour does and does not incorporate. Like you said, it is very subjective so making sure we are on the same page is really important. Thank you.

Speaker DeVenney: any more questions on this discussion?

Commissioner Sahi: Just wanted to add one more thing. I wanted to make sure that it's clear that we can't put a number to emotional labour, I don't think it's possible to find an amount to encapsulate what these students are sharing, these numbers aren't saying an hour is worth so much money, our goal is making sure we are compensating their time when we are exerting their emotional labour. We aren't providing a matrix that says this is how much your experiences are worth, we can't ever do that, just wanted to make sure that was clear.

Speaker DeVenney: VP Henriques.

AMS VP-UA Henriques: Thank you to the commissioners who have spoken on this. This will likely be the last point where assembly can give us any feedback on the proposed policy, we'll then be taking this policy as it stands to the board of directors. Just wanted to clarify that That's all from me, thank you.

Speaker DeVenney: It looks like this discussion is now closed.

Adjournment

Moved by Alexia Henriques, Seconded by Jared den Otter

Motion carries.

Assembly is adjourned at 18:48 EST